**EPSRC** Pioneering research and skills



# The optical spectrum and Tb/s wireless systems in the 6G era

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THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH











- TOWS 6G Vision
- Industrial eco system
- TOWS project
- 4G, 5G and 6G
- Use Cases
- Highlights
  - Hardware
  - Systems
  - Architecture
  - Demos
- Future directions

Terabit Bidirectional Multi-user Optical Wireless System (TOWS) for 6G LiFi



### Vision

Our vision is to develop and experimentally demonstrate multiuser Terabit/s optical wireless systems that offer capacities at least two orders of magnitude higher than the current planned 5G optical and radio wireless systems, with a roadmap to wireless systems that can offer up to four orders of magnitude higher capacity.

First, UK 6G project; paradigm shift from radio to optical, indoor

Pioneering research and skills

<u> April 2019 – March 2024, £6.6m project</u>

### Industrial partners



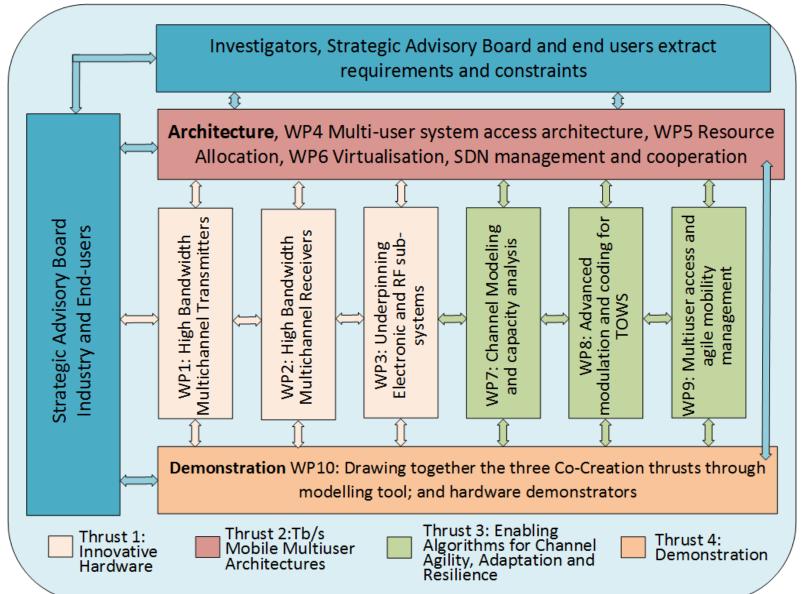
Vendors	Devices	IQE	COMPOUND SEMICONDUCTOR TECHNOLOGIES
	Optical Systems	Optical Networking	purelifi zînwave USHIO
	Communication Networks and Systems	ıılıılı cısco	
Operators	Mobile Network	orange <sup>™</sup>	Deutsche Telekom
	Wired Network	вт	Jisc
Service providers	Media	BBC	Microsoft
	Software, manufacturing	babcock trusted to deliver™	<b>AIRBUS</b> GROUP

# Drivers and future directions



- Internet traffic is projected to grow by factors of 30x and 1000x in 10 and 20 years respectively.
- Mobile data is the fastest growing traffic strand, currently growing at 60% per year leading to a projected growth of over 10,000x in 20 years.
- Despite the tremendous improvements due to the small cell concept and the allocation of new radio frequency (RF) spectrum in 5G, it is inevitable that the RF part of the electromagnetic spectrum will not be sufficient to drive the 4th industrial revolution.
- This highlights the need for a step change in approach via new technologies that are able to provide communication efficiently at parts of the spectrum other than the 100GHz of RF spectrum currently in use.
- Current estimates are that 80% of all mobile connections originate and terminate indoors.
- A potential disruptive solution is optical wireless (OW) communication.

# **TOWS project**



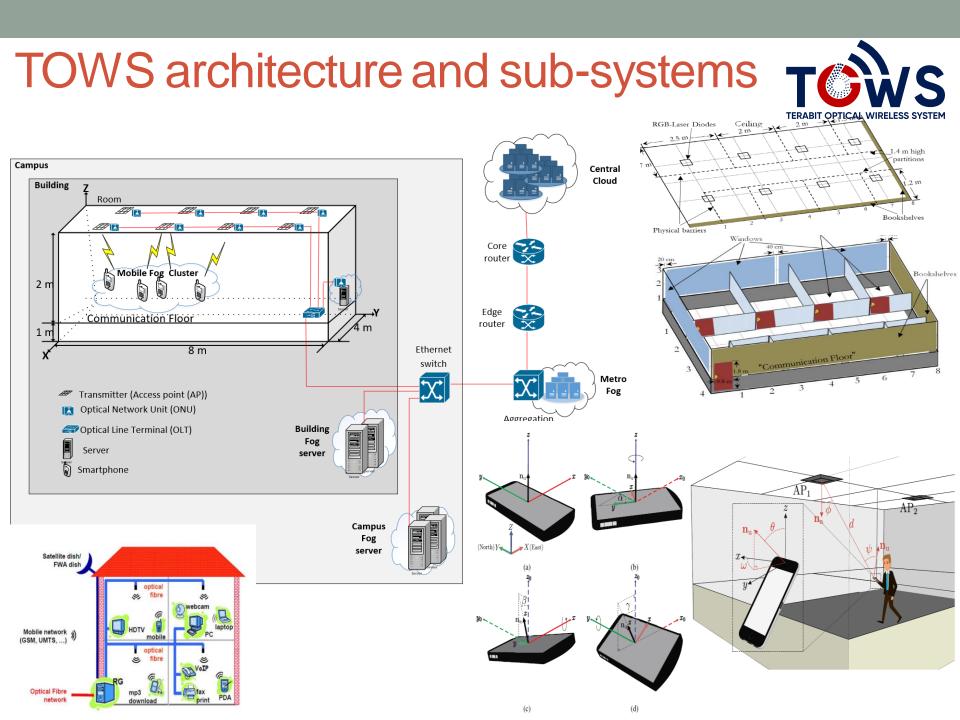
### Mobile Radio and Optical Wireless Data Rates



Mobile base station	Data rate	Mobility
4G	100Mb/s - 300Mb/s	High
5G	10Gb/s	Small Cells
IEEE 802.11 bb (optical wireless)	10Gb/s peak	WiFi size cells
IEEE 802.15.13 (Multi-Gigabit/s Optical Wireless Communications)	10Gb/s (July 2019)	LoS, 200m
IEEE 802.15.7r1 (Optical Camera Communication (OCC))	100 Mb/s	High
Experimental Optical Wireless	40Gb/s	Beam steering
TOWS	1Tb/s – 10Tb/s	Indoor mobility, 50m <sup>2</sup> per access point; 2.5Gb/s - 50Gb/s per user

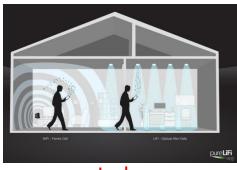
### TOWS BBC use case:

- Studio 22m x 14m or 30m x 33m
- Uncompressed UHDTV, 23Gb/s per camera
- 12 to 20 cameras in studio; up to 460Gb/s; 4-5 cameras used sometimes)

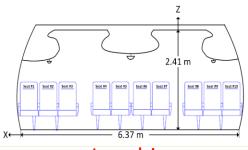


### TOWS architecture and sub-systems

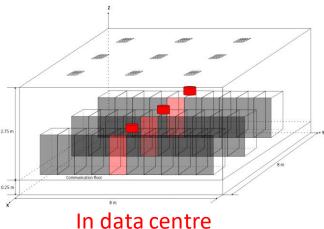


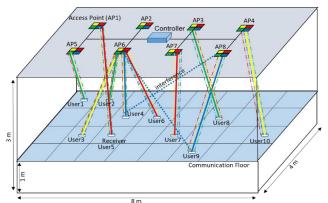


Indoor

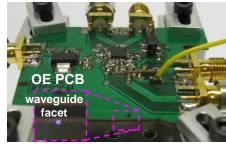


In cabin

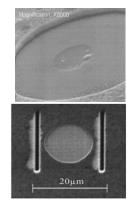


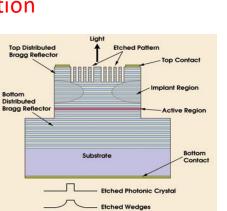


#### **Multiple access**

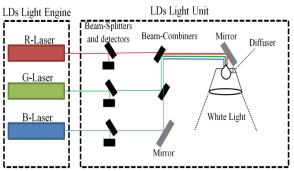


#### Integration

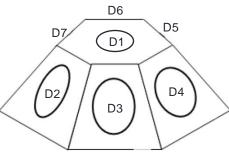




Surface relief and polarisation pinned VCSELs for beam and spectral control



**Transmitter module** 



Angle diversity receiver

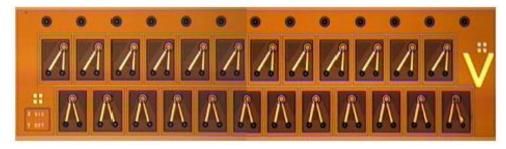
# Hardware: Current studies

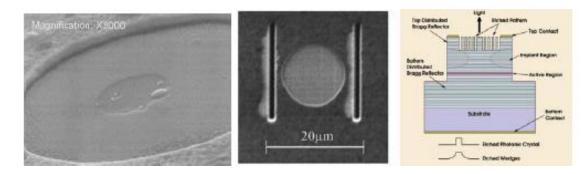


Current work:

- Transmitter and Receiver optics
- room coverage, AP distribution
- high speed VCSEL-based links
- beam steering concepts
- system implications



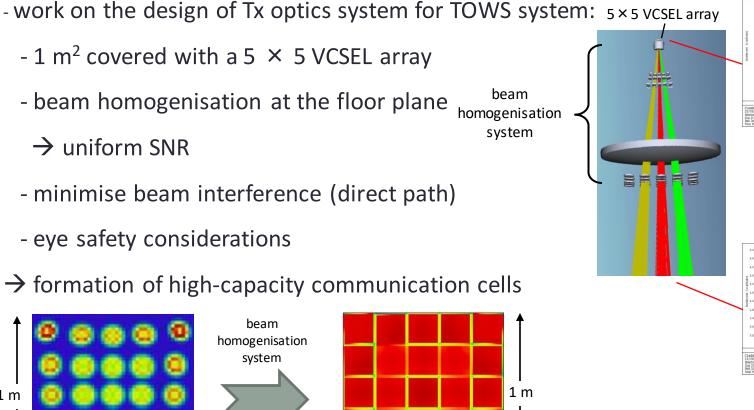


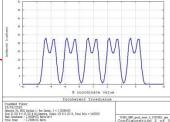


# Hardware: Transmitter optics

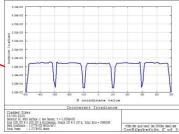


#### VCSEL output intensity

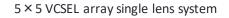




#### floor intensity



~ 86% intensity uniformity



1 m

1 m

5 × 5 VCSEL array beam homogenisation

**-**1 m

### Hardware: Laser safety



#### Highlights:

A generalized framework for laser safety analysis has been developed where the maximum permissible transmit power of a laser source ensuring both skin and eye safety, is derived for various cases including:

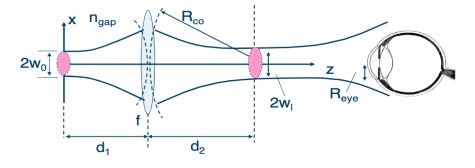
- 1. Single mode Gaussian/non-Gaussian beams
- 2. Multi-mode beams (through measurements)
  - Hermitte-Gaussian beam
  - Laguerre-Gaussian beam
- 3. Laser with lens
  - System of lenses
  - Thin lens
- 4. Laser with diffuser
  - Lambertian pattern diffusers
  - Uniform pattern diffusers

#### 5. Laser array

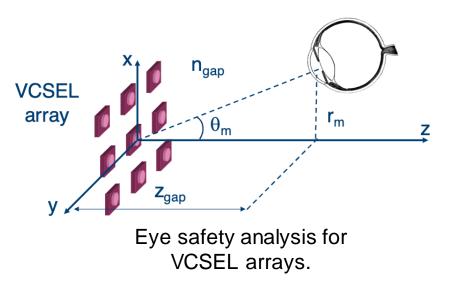
- Laser array with a collimated beam
- Laser array with diverged beams

#### **Publications:**

M. D. Soltani, et al., "Laser-Based Optical Wireless Communication: Design and Safety"



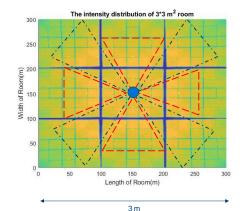
Eye safety analysis for beam propagation through a lens.

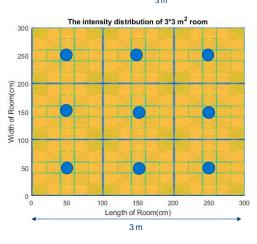


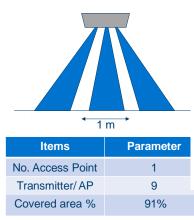
# Hardware: Room coverage

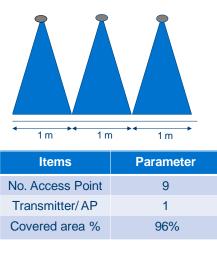


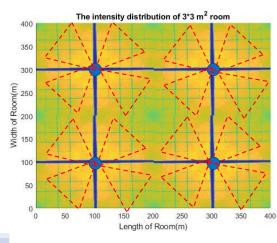
- application in the room for coverage (3  $\times$  3 m<sup>2</sup>)
  - $\rightarrow$  distribution of access points (APs)

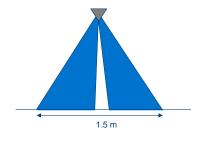








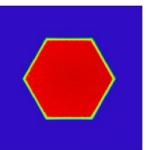


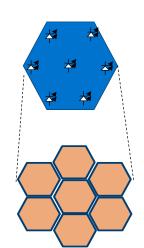


Items	Parameter
No. Access Point	4
Transmitter/AP	4
Covered area %	92%

#### Alternative shaping of output beam





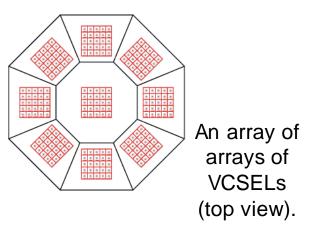


# System: Terabit optical wireless system

Highlights:

- A novel double tier access point (AP) architecture based on array of arrays of vertical cavity surface emitting lasers (VCSELs) is proposed.
- The AP covers the entire indoor area.
- The AP provides an aggregate data rate beyond 1 Tb/s (at least 10 Gb/s per beam).
- The inter-beam interference is minimized.
- This design supports multi-user access.
- This design is subject to the optical power emission limit for VCSELs due to eye safety.

Indoor access cells



#### **Publications:**

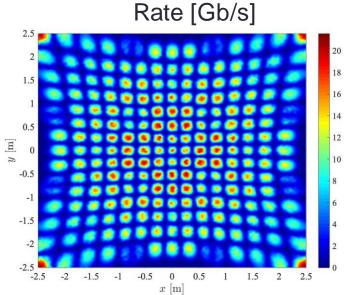
E. Sarbazi, *et al.*, "A Tb/s Indoor Optical Wireless Access System Using VCSEL Arrays", presented at PIMRC 2020.

# System: Spatial distribution of the data rate over the coverage area



System parameters: Link distance: 3 m; Number of VCSELs: 225; VCSEL output

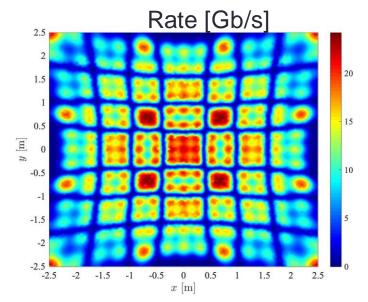
power: 10 mW; VCSEL bandwidth: 10 GHz; Detector effective area: 2 cm<sup>2</sup>



#### Individual beams:

Data rates of 10 to 20 Gb/s are achieved at the beam spot centres.

The AP delivers an aggregate data rate of beyond  $225 \times 10 \text{ Gb/s} = 2.25 \text{ Tb/s}.$ 



#### Static clusters:

Clustering helps to improve the spotedge rate performance. Each cluster is composed of a number of neighbouring beam spots.

#### **Publications:**

E. Sarbazi, et al., "A Tb/s Indoor Optical Wireless Access System Using VCSEL Arrays", PIMRC 2020.

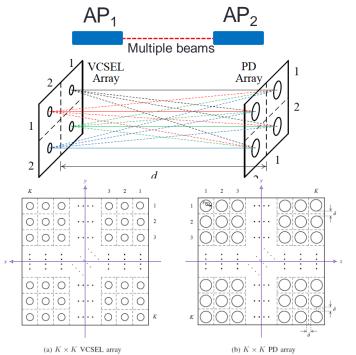
### System: Terabit optical wireless backhaul

#### Highlights:

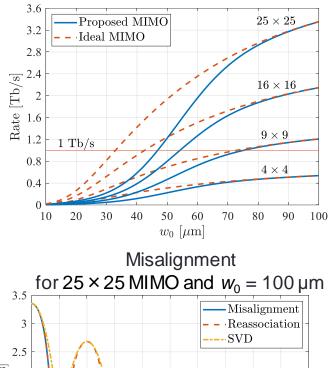
- A MIMO optical wireless backhaul system using VCSEL arrays is proposed.
- A 25 × 25 system using 5 × 5 arrays achieves an aggregate data rate of more than 1 Tb/s.

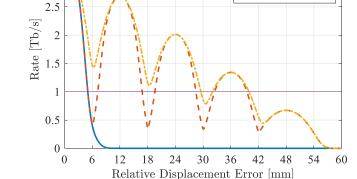
#### System parameters:

Link distance: 2 m VCSEL output power: 1 mW VCSEL bandwidth: 20 GHz Effective area per detector: 0.5 cm2  $w_0$  is the effective beam waist radius



#### Perfect Alignment





#### **Publications:**

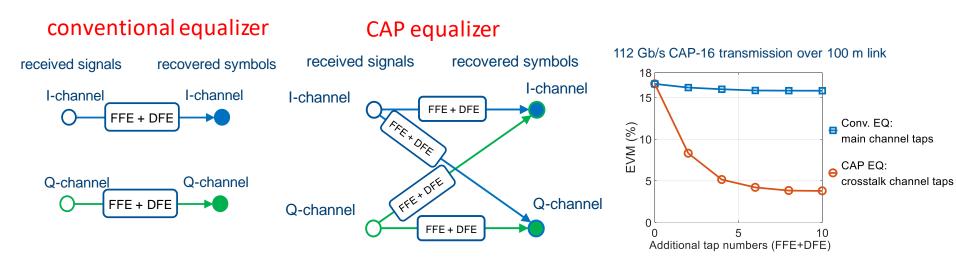
H. Kazemi, *et al.,* "A Tb/s Indoor Optical Wireless Backhaul System Using VCSEL Arrays", presented at PIMRC 2020.



# System: High-speed operation



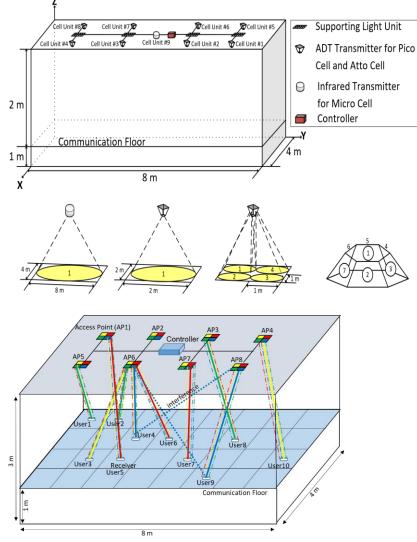
- work on advanced modulation formats and equalization methods
  - $\rightarrow$  new equalizer structure for CAP-based optical links : CAP equalizer
  - → demonstrated in VCSEL-based MMF link : 124 Gb/s achieved with 25 GHz VCSEL
  - $\rightarrow$  low complexity implementation similar to conventional FFE/DFEs



→ similar concepts to be applied to TOWS systems to improve link capacity

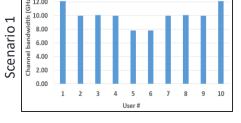
X. Dong, et al., JLT, vol. 37, pp. 5937-5944, 2019X. Dong, et al., in ECOC, pp. 1-3, paper P.20, 2019

### Architecture: Resource allocation

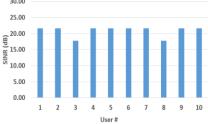


Alsulami, O. Z., Alahmadi, A., Saeed, S. O. M., Mohamed, S.H., El-Gorashi, T.E.H., Alresheedi, M.T. and Elmirghani, J.M.H., "Optimum resource allocation in optical wireless systems with energy efficient fog and cloud architectures," Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A, vol. 378, No. 2169, pp. 1-29, March 2020.

 $SINR_{u,r}^{c,a,\lambda} = \frac{Signal}{Interference + Noise}$ TERABIT OPTICAL WIRELESS • Signal:  $Sig_{u,r}^{c,a,\lambda} = (R Pt_{u,r}^{c,a,\lambda} h_{u,r}^{c,a,\lambda})^2$ The preamplifier noise:  $\sigma_{Rx} = N_{pr}B_e$ The background light shot noise:  $\sigma_{\mu,r}^{cc,b,\lambda} = 2e(R P t_{\mu,r}^{cc,a,\lambda} h_{\mu,r}^{cc,a,\lambda}) B_{\rho} B_{\rho}$  $SINR_{ur}^{c,a,\lambda} =$  $Sig_{u,r}^{c,a,\lambda} S_{u,r}^{c,a,\lambda}$  $\overline{\sum_{cc \in C} \sum_{\substack{b \in \mathcal{A}} \sum_{iu \in \mathcal{U}} \sum_{ir \in \mathcal{B}} Sig_{u,ir}^{cc,b,\lambda} s_{iu,ir}^{cc,b,\lambda} + \sum_{cc \in C} \sum_{\substack{b \in \mathcal{A}} \sigma_{u,r}^{cc,b,\lambda}} \left[ 1 - \sum_{\substack{iu \in \mathcal{U} \\ iu \neq u}} \sum_{ir \in \mathcal{B}} s_{iu,ir}^{cc,b,\lambda} \right]}$ The MILP model is subject to:  $\sum_{u \in \mathcal{U}} \sum_{r \in \mathcal{B}} S_{u,r}^{c,a,\lambda} \leq 1$  $\forall c \in C, \forall a \in \mathcal{A}, \forall \lambda \in \mathcal{W}$ (To ensure that a wavelength belonging to an AP is only allocated once)  $\sum_{c \in C} \sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}} \sum_{\lambda \in \mathcal{W}} \sum_{r \in \mathcal{B}} S_{u,r}^{c,a,\lambda} = 1$  $\forall u \in \mathcal{U}$ (To ensure all users are assigned to one cell unit, access point, one wavelength and one branch)  $SINR_{u,r}^{c,a,\lambda} \ge 10^{\frac{36}{10}}$  $\forall u \in \mathcal{U}, \forall c \in \mathcal{C}, \forall a \in \mathcal{A}, \forall \lambda \in \mathcal{W}, \forall r \in \mathcal{B}$ (To ensure the SINR of each user does not go below 15.6 dB) **Channel Bandwidth** SINR at 7.1 Gbps 30.00 14.00 ₽ 12.00 25.00









# Multiuser architectures



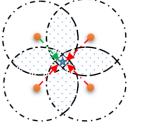
#### **Optical** Cell Formation

- Full connectivity design
- Network centric design
- User centric design: optimal and sub optimal UC approach

### Interference Management

- Precoding schemes
   ZF, MSE, MMSE and RS
- Power control and Blind schemes NOMA and BIA
- Hybrid schemes

HRS, BIA-RS, BIA-NOMA and H-BIA



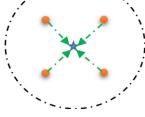
cluster 1  $\zeta^{[1]}[t]$  **h**(1)

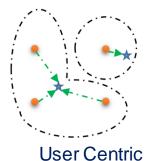
OMA Intra-cluster

cluster 2  $\zeta^{[2]}[t]$  h(1) h(1) h(2)

Inter-cluste

hrough BL/

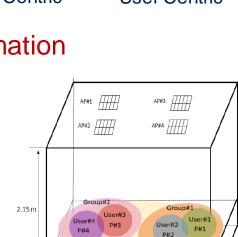


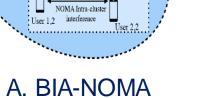


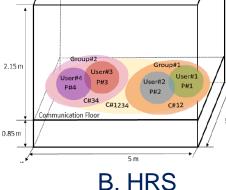
Multi-APs

Network Centric

### **Cell formation**







Hybrid schemes

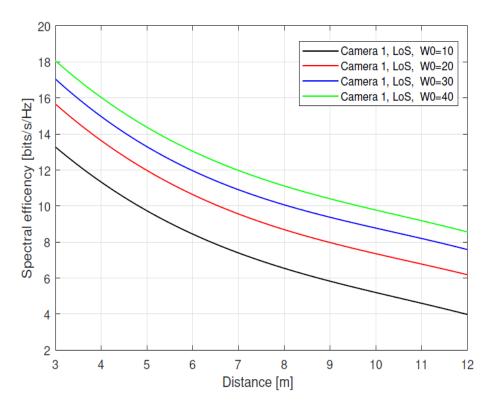
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# Multiuser architectures



### **BBC** studio

 Each camera equipped with transmitter using VCSEL covers an area that can reach up to 1.45 m x 1.45 m at 11m distance.



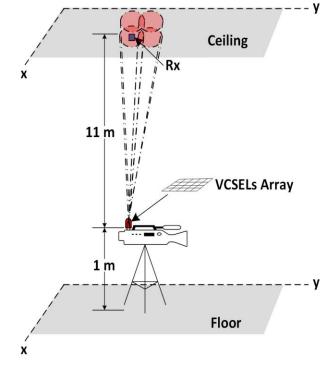
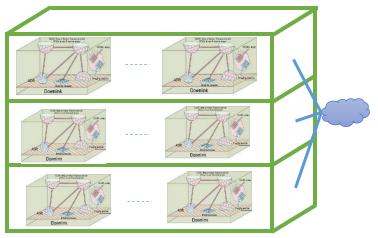


Fig. 1. A use case.

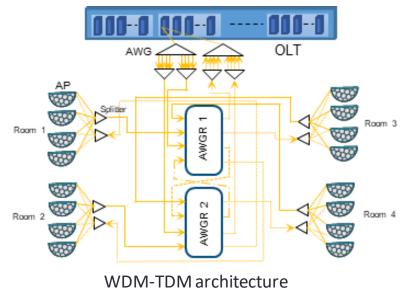
Fig. 2. SE vs distance.

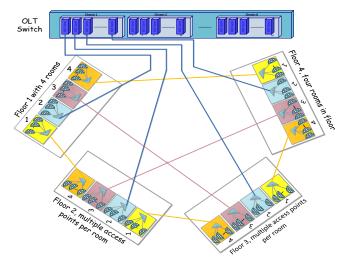
# Architecture: Backhaul fibre network

- Purpose:
  - Access Point (AP) to AP wired links within a room for device to device communication
  - Room to room and floor to floor links for user Mobility and for Aggregating processing capacity from user devices, IoT devices and distributed servers



- Proposed PON-based Networks:
  - WDM-TDM architecture (uses AWGRs and tunable lasers)
  - Point-to-Point single wavelength architecture (use APs for routing)





Point-to-Point architecture

### Architecture: Backhaul fibre network modelling

- Developed a MILP Model to Optimise Flow Scheduling and Routing between APs to evaluate the impact of network topology on the performance and energy efficiency
- Comparison with Fat-tree and Spine-leaf
- MILP Objective: Minimise the energy consumption (E) or the latest completion time (M) of data transfer

$$\min\left[E+Q\,\sum_{s,d\in\mathbb{R},t\in\mathbb{T},s\neq d}\left(t\,\delta_{sdt}\right)\right],\quad \min\left[M+Q\,\sum_{s,d\in\mathbb{R},t\in\mathbb{T},s\neq d}\left(t\,\delta_{sdt}\right)\right].$$

• Under several constraints (e.g. flow conservation, traffic scheduling, completion time calculation)

$$\sum_{v \in \mathbb{G}_u} \chi_{uvwt}^{sd} - \sum_{v \in \mathbb{G}_u} \chi_{vuwt}^{sd} = \begin{cases} \delta_{sdt} & u = s \\ -\delta_{sdt} & u = d \\ 0 & otherwise \end{cases}$$

$$\forall s,d \in \mathbb{R}, s \neq d, u \in \mathbb{G}, w \in \mathbb{W}, t \in \mathbb{T}$$

$$\sum_{t\in\mathbb{T}}\delta_{sdt}=\Delta_{sd}; \forall s,d\in\mathbb{R},s\neq d$$

$$\Omega_{uvwt} = D\left(t-1\right) + \frac{\psi_{uvwt}}{C_{uvw}}, \quad \text{and}$$

and

and

 $\tau_{uvwt} \le L \Gamma_{uvwt},$ 

 $\tau_{uvwt} \leq \Omega_{uvwt},$ 

 $i \in \mathbb{G}$ .

$$au_{uvwt} \ge \Omega_{uvwt} - L \left(1 - \Gamma_{uvwt}\right), \quad \text{and}$$

 $\forall u \in \mathbb{G}, v \in \mathbb{G}_u, w \in \mathbb{W}, t \in \mathbb{T}.$ 

 $M \ge \tau_{uvwt},$  and  $M \le \tau_{uvwt} + L \left[1 - Z_{uvwt}\right],$  and

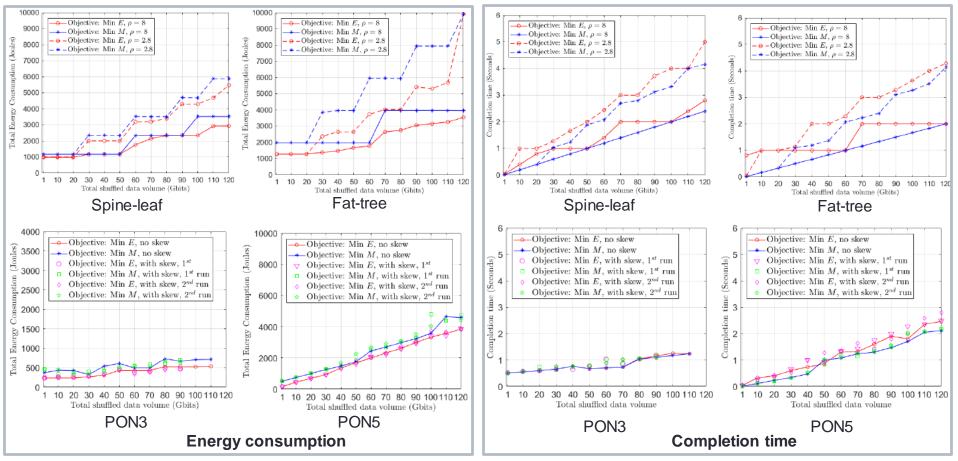
$$\forall u \in \mathbb{G}, v \in \mathbb{G}_u, w \in \mathbb{W}, t \in \mathbb{T},$$

$$\sum_{v \in G_u, w \in W, t \in T} Z_{uvwt} = 1$$

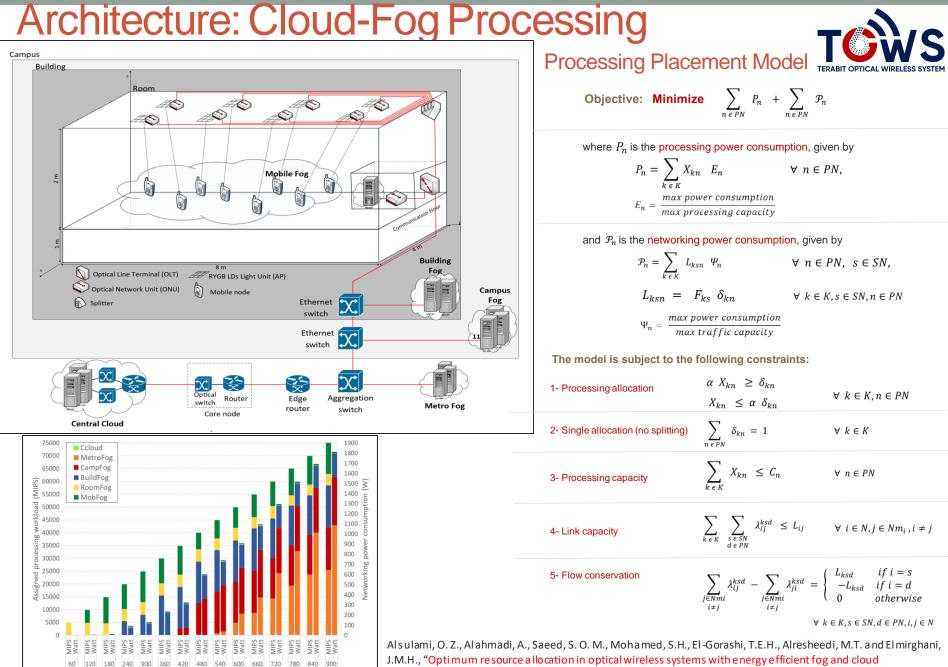
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### Architecture: Backhaul fibre network





- For the WDM-TDM architecture, completion time is reduced by about 50% compared to remaining networks while reducing the energy consumption by up to about 88%.
- Future work considers AP-AWGR wireless links, designing room to room, floor to floor interconnection, and optimizing workloads placement and users mobility.



Data rate per demand (Mbps)

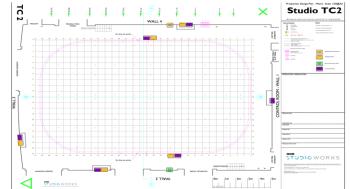
architectures," Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A, vol. 378, No. 2169, pp. 1-29, March 2020.

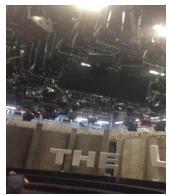
### Demos: BBC strictly come dancing











# Long Term Vision for 6G

FROM THE GUEST EDITORS

04/02/2020, 20:5

Klaus David, Jaafar Elmirghani, Harald Haas, and Xiao-Hu You

 Wireless Capacities 2 to 4 orders of magnitude higher than 5G (Tb/s)

 Latencies 1 to 2 orders of magnitude lower than 5G (μs), autonomous systems

Intelligence everywhere (machine learning and AI)

Planet wide coverage (Hetnets and low orbit satellites)

### WHITE PAPER ON 6G NETWORKING

6G Research Visions, No. 6 June 2020

All Journals 🗸

#### PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY A

MATHEMATICAL, PHYSICAL AND ENGINEERING SCIENCES

Forthcoming issues | Philosophical Transactions of the Reval Society A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Science

#### Forthcoming issues

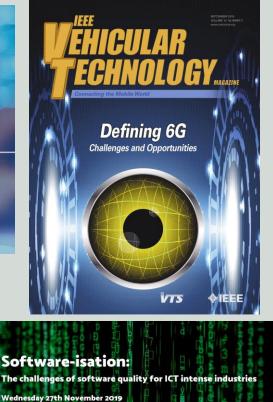
Philosophical Transactions A publishes theme issues across the physical, mathematical and engineering sciences. Some issues that are due to be published in the next few months are:

Urban flood resilience Editor: Richard Fenner Online 17 February 2020

Optical wireless communication Editors: Harald Haas, Jaafar Elmirghani and Ian White Online 02 March 2020 Defining 6G: Challenges and Opportunities

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### **Publications: Journals**

- 1. N. Bamiedakis, R. V. Penty and I. H. White, "Carrierless amplitude and phase modulation in wireless visible light communication systems," accepted for publication in Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A, 2019 (invited).
- 2. X. Dong, N. Bamiedakis, D. G. Cunningham, R. V. Penty and I. H. White, "A Novel Equalizer for 112 Gb/s CAP-Based Data Transmission over150 m MMF links," accepted for publication in IEEE Journal of Lightwave Technology, vol. 37, pp. 5937-5944, 2019.
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- 12. J. Kosman, K. Moore, H. Haas, R. Henderson, "Distortion losses of high-speed single-photon avalanche diode optical receivers approaching quantum sensitivity." Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A, March 2020.
- 13. E. Panayirci, T. Cogalan, V. Poor and H. Haas, "Physical-Layer Security with Optical Generalized Space Shift Keying", IEEE Transactions on Communications, 2020.
- 14. Alsulami, O. Z., Alahmadi, A., Saeed, S. O. M., Mohamed, S.H., El-Gorashi, T.E.H., Alresheedi, M.T. and Elmirghani, J.M.H., "Optimum resource allocation in optical wireless systems with energy efficient fog and cloud architectures," Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A, vol. 378, No. 2169, pp. 1-29, March 2020.
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- 74. Adnan Qidan, A., Morales-Cespedes, M., Armada, A. G. and Elmirghani, J.M.H., "User-Centric Cell Formation for Blind Interference Alignment in Optical Wireless Networks," IEEE International Conference on Communications (ICC'21), Montreal, 14-21 June 2021.

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- 78. Adnan Qidan, A., Morales-Cespedes, M., El-Gorashi, T.E.H. and Elmirghani, J.M.H., "Resource Allocation in Laser-based Optical Wireless Cellular Networks," Submitted to IEEE Global Telecommunications Conference (GLOBECOM'21), Madrid, Spain, 7 -11 December 2021.

### **Publications: Whitepapers**

- Taleb, T., Aguiar, R. L., Yahia, I. G. B., Chatras, B., Christensen, G., Chunduri, U., Clemm, A., Costa, X., Dong, L., Elmirghani, J., Yosuf, B., Foukas, X., Galis, A., Giordani, M., Gurtov, A., Hecker, A., Huang, C.-W., Jacquenet, C., Kellerer, W., .... Zorzi, M. (2020). White Paper on 6G Networking [White paper]. (6G Research Visions, No. 6). University of Oulu. http://urn.fi/urn.sibn:9789526226842.
- 80. Safari, M., Haas, H., Penty, R.V., White, I.H., El-Gorashi and Elmirghani, J.M.H., "Terabit Indoor Laser-Based Wireless Communications: LiFi 2.0 for 6G," Light Communications Alliance White paper, 2021.

### **Publications: Invited Talks**

- 81. Invited talk, Elmirghani, J.M.H., "Future Internet Networks and Systems," Ofcom, UK, 21 Oct 2020.
- 82. Invited talk, Elmirghani, J.M.H., "Terabit Optical Wireless Systems for 6G Networks," EPSRC Towards Ultimate Convergence of All Networks (TOUCAN) Programme Grant final workshop, UK, 4 November 2020.
- 83. Alsulami, O.Z., Saeed, S.O.M., Mohamed S.H., El-Gorashi, T.E.H., Alresheedi, M.T. and Elmirghani, J.M.H., "Resource allocation in coexisting optical wireless HetNets," invited talk and invited paper at IEEE 22nd International Conference on Transparent Optical Networks (ICTON), Bari, Italy, 19-23 July 2020.
- 84. Alsulami, O.Z., Alahmadi, A.A., Saeed, S.O.M., Mohamed S.H., El-Gorashi, T.E.H., Alresheedi, M.T. and Elmirghani, J.M.H., "Optimum Resource Allocation in 6G Optical Wireless Communication Systems," invited talk and invited paper at IEEE 6G Wireless Summit, Levi, Lapland, Finland, 17-20 March 2020.
- 85. "A new equalizer structure for high-speed optical links based on carrierless amplitude and phase modulation", Nikos Bamiedakis, Xiaohe Dong, David G Cunningham, Richard V Penty, Ian H White, 2020 22nd International Conference on Transparent Optical Networks (ICTON), pp. 1-7
- 86. Invited talk: Elmirghani, J.M.H., "The optical spectrum and Tb/s wireless systems in the 6G era," UK Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and UK Spectrum Policy Forum (SPF) workshop on Radio Access Network Techniques for 6G, 1 July 2021.
- 87. Invited talk, Elmirghani, J.M.H., "Terabit Optical Wireless Systems and Energy Efficiency," UK and Nordic-Baltic Countries 5G Forum, organized by 5G Testbeds and Trials Programme, Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), 8 Feb 2021.
- 88. Majid Safari, "Optical Wireless Communication for 5G and beyond," The Road Towards 6G Workshop, Indian Institute of Information Technology Guwahati, India, February 2021.